

## **Episodes associated with inpatient admissions: initial findings from data analysis**

**ISSUE:** If provider efficiency (resource use and quality) can be validly measured, Medicare could pursue a number of policy options to further encourage providers to be efficient. Accordingly, MedPAC has focused its research on measurement tools to get a sense of what tools—or attributes of tools—can distinguish efficient providers from less efficient providers.

**KEY POINTS:** This paper describes our approach to and initial findings when creating illustrative episodes of care to measure resource use around inpatient hospital stays. We look at the number of episodes and spending per episode under various scenarios.

**ACTION:** Commissioners should provide staff feedback on research design and the implications of the preliminary findings to help focus future work.

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